

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Room 414/416, State Capitol
Thursday, January 22, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair
Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair
Sen. Dave Thomas
Sen. Michael Waddoups
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Mike Dmitrich

STAFF PRESENT: Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst
Bethany Brady, Committee Secretary

Chair Bush called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Mark Bleazard, the Fiscal Analyst, presented a recommended schedule for upcoming meetings, a memo from the Co-chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee, and revenue estimates for FY 2004 and FY 2005. Revenues are trending in a positive direction, but encouraged legislators not to assume that there is a surplus until the books are closed. The Analyst gave an overview of the issues and challenges the committee will face during the session. All work of the committee should be completed by February 12, 2004.

Department of Transportation

John Njord, Executive Director of the Department of Transportation, reported on a departmental evaluation that resulted in the elimination of 100+ FTEs and a savings of five million dollars. The elimination is a product of better efficiency and a hiring freeze, and there have been no job losses in the process. He presented the Department's concerns for the upcoming year and responded to questions from the committee.

Department of Environmental Quality

Dianne Nielson, Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, reported on the implementation of ongoing FY 2003 General Fund reductions and outlined the critical issues for

the DEQ: 1) \$250,000 General Funds Reduction in FY2004 budget, 2) Adequate funding for the Environmental Quality Restricted Account, 3) Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Legislative Task Force, and 4) Funding for opposition to high-level nuclear waste storage. She then responded to questions from the committee.

National Guard

Col. Craig Morgan, from the Utah National Guard, reported that 50% of Utah's National Guard are not at home. He expressed concerns for increased expenditures required in the armory maintenance budgets. He also mentioned concerns for future maintenance of the Veterans' Nursing Home.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bush adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair

Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair